

PROCESSING DIGITAL VIDEO DATA**ABSTRACT**

In general, the invention is directed toward a device for processing digital video data, such as an encoder, a decoder or an encoder/decoder (CODEC). The device makes use of an innovative architecture in which functionality is partitioned between an embedded processor, a digital signal processor and dedicated hardware to achieve increased performance. In addition, the device includes a programmable video direct memory access (VDMA) controller to retrieve video data from memory in response to a command specifying a multidimensional block of video data.